THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Neglect of heritage sites by State Governments

2499. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that heritage sites/properties throughout the country are being neglected by various State Governments;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take stern action against the State Governments who are neglecting these heritage sites/properties; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Under the Constitution, archaeological sites and remains other than those declared as of national importance are to be protected and maintained by the respective State Governments. The Central Government do not propose to intervene in matters which is the specific responsibility of the concerned State Government. They would, however, be suitably advised in the matter.

National Tourist Places

†2500. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop the places associated with the life of Mahatma Gandhi as National Tourist Places;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the places in the country which are likely to be developed as 'National Tourist Place'; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be started in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Government has decided to develop important tourist destinations and circuits including ancient monuments, places of cultural importance and places of historical importance. Places associated with the life of Mahatma Gandhi are also included.

(b) The places would be finalised in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(c) Development of tourist infrastructure is a continuous process.

Economic assistance to various organisations

†2501. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that economic assistance is provided by Government to the various organisations to expand various cultural and literary activities;

(b) if so, the total economic assistance provided together with the names of the organisations to which these assistance was provided during the year 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the details of the work and the sphere of work of each organisation?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.